

Recommendation of the 15th Meeting Maritime States Development Council (MSDC) held in Bengaluru on 16th November, 2013.

The 15th MSDC was held under the aegis of Ministry of Shipping, Government of India on 16th November, 2013 at Bengaluru. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Union Minister for Shipping, Sh. G.K. Vasan. Hon'ble Ministers from two Maritime States also attended the meeting. Sh. Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Sh. K. Babu, Hon'ble Minister, Govt. of Kerala participated in the meeting. Representatives from Maritime States/State Maritime Boards, Central Ministries and other Central Organisations participated in the deliberations.

2. After deliberations on various issues concerning the maritime sector, the following major decisions were arrived at:-

1. **Formation of Maritime Boards:** Formation of Maritime Boards is a long pending issue and till date only three State Maritime Boards, namely Gujarat, Tamilnadu and Maharashtra, have been formed out of 13 Maritime States/UTs. Therefore, it was resolved to expedite the formation of such Boards in the ensuing financial year. The Maritime states may also explore the option of constituting such Boards as an autonomous body. Ministry of Shipping would also examine the feasibility of the option and advise the states. In all Maritime Boards, representatives from Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Ministry of Shipping should be included as members and also consider representation from Ministry of Railways & Central Board of Customs & Excise as special invitees. In the existing three Maritime Boards, a representation from Ministry of Shipping may be called as a Special invitee.

Action-State Governments/UTs/MoS

2. Security up-gradation of Major / non-major Ports:

The DGLL to finalize the scheme for supporting installation of VTMS in non-Major government Ports handling substantial cargo, to upgrade the navigational security. DGLL will provide the equipments for VTMS and training of Officials for managing VTMS. The land, building and operation and maintenance will be taken care of by State Government/UTs/SMBs. In this context, DGLL will provide assistance for installation of VTMS in Karwar Port in consultation with State Government of Karnataka as the first project.

3. Receiving and Salvage of Wreck - Delegation of Power to State Maritime Boards: Director General, (Shipping) is ready to delegate the power to the State Maritime Boards. It was resolved that such power will be delegated to the designated Officer of State Maritime Boards and in cases where SMBs are not formed the power will be delegated to Port Officer along with the concerned District Magistrate (as mentioned in the Act 1966) till the formation of SMBs. Notification to this effect will be published within a fortnight.

Action- DG(S)

4. Registration, Survey and Certification of Fishing vessels - Delegation of Powers to State Authority: DG, Shipping has agreed to delegate power to State authorities for registration of Fishing vessels above 20 metres to the same authority who is responsible for registration of vessels below 20 metres. In respect of powers pertaining to survey and certification, the same to be delegated to the Maritime Boards. In respect of States having no Maritime Boards, the power to be delegated to Directorate of Ports/ State Port Department DG (Shipping) will examine and formulate a set of guidelines pertaining to survey/certification of fishing vessels of different dimensions. DG(S) should take action within one month.

Action-DG(S)/State Government

5. Development of New Fishing Harbour near New Mangalore Port: It was resolved that State Government and new Mangalore Port will submit the proposal, within a month time, to the Central Government (D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) for early development of new Fishing harbour at New Mangalore Port, before the expiry of the present scheme. Operation and maintenance of the new fishing harbour will be looked after by the State Fisheries Department.

**Action- D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries
/NMPT/State Government of Karnataka**

6. Providing Places of Refuge for Disabled/Unseaworthy Ships: DG(S) has identified the Port of Sachana in Gujarat and Thalassery in Kerala as suitable locations as places of refuge in the West Coast. The consent of State Governments to be expedited. Similarly, Capt. Mohan Committee has identified Vallinokkam in Tamil Nadu and Bheemipatnam in Andhra Pradesh as suitable locations at the East Coast. DG(S) to take the consent of the State Governments and notify all the four ports as places of refuge for disabled/unseaworthy ships. The consent of State

for suitable infrastructure development of the 4 ports of refuge in 6 months' time, including for financial assistance.

Action- DG(S)/State Government/SMBs

7. Model rules to be framed under Inland Vessels Acts 1917: IWAI informed that the model I.V. Rules has been finalized/sent to State Governments for adoption. It was resolved that State Governments will take suitable action for adoption of model I.V. Rules within Six months time.

Action- State Government/SMB

8. Comprehensive Pilotage Scheme: To standardise training of pilots in all ports and to evolve a comprehensive pilotage scheme, a Committee of technical experts under Capt. Mohan, Chairman, National Shipping Board will be constituted. The Committee will have the following members:-

- (i) Capt. Sibal, Deputy Conservator, Kandla Port,
- (ii) Capt. J.J. Biswas, Deputy DMD, Kolkata Port Trust
- (iii) Shir J.K. Dhar, Director, IMU, Mumbai.

It was also decided to establish two specialised training centres one each in the East and West Coasts to impart training for pilots for the ports. It was also decided that JNPT will provide the infrastructure, in the west Coast and IMU, Chennai in East Coast for such training.

DG(S)/IMU/State Government/SMBs/JNPT

9. Further amendment or re-writing of I.V. Act of 1917. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has been tasked to frame a new Inland Vessels Act after consulting all stakeholders and bring the draft Act for discussion in the next MSDC meeting.

IWAI.

10. Disposal of Abandoned Ships within Port Limits. It is necessary to evolve standard operating procedures (SOP) to handle abandoned ships and their disposal. A Committee under DG.(Shipping) may be constituted to evolve the SOP and also to make the owners of the derelict vessels accountable for the remedial action. The ports are required to take proactive measures by approaching the Admiralty Courts for necessary and expeditious legal remedies.

DG(S)/State Government/UTs/SMBs/Major Ports

11. Financial Assistance from GoI – Oil Pollution Cess fund:

A draft scheme has been formulated by Ministry of Shipping. However it is noticed that the process of collection of oil cess at present is not streamlined and there are possibilities of leakage. The following steps are proposed:-

- To audit all oil handling ports to identify the deficiencies in the collection system and evolve procedure to streamline the system of collection.
- To increase the oil cess which is very low (50 paise per tonne) at present to a reasonable level.
- To modify the scheme formulated by re-visiting the same in the light of the report of Capt. Mohan Committee on Tier-I Oil Pollution Mitigation.

(Action : MoS/PrCCA of MoS)